(c) the steps Government would take in ensuring that the letter should reach at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There may be stray cases of delay, the number of which is negligible compared to the traffic handled by the Department. Department of Posts has fixed norms for delivery of mail across the country, and has widely circulated the norms for information of the public.

(c) Bringing improvement in transmission and delivery of mail is a continuous process. Following action has been taken from time to time, to improve transmission and delivery of mails:

(i) Regular monitoring of mail routing and delivery by posting Test Letters and Trail Cards.

(ii) Progressive mechanization of delivery by providing mopeds to postmen for delivery work in outlying areas of big cities.

(iii) Rationalization/restructuring of delivery with a view to deploy adequate manpower in the expanding urban conglomerations.

(iv) Surprise checks on the delivery of mails by the supervisory staff and officers.

(v) Live Mail Survey at regular intervals both in rural and urban areas to identify weak links and streamline the mail transmission and delivery system.

(vi) Regular co-ordination meetings with Airlines, Railways and State Road Transport Authorities to sort out problems relating to transmission of Mails.

(vii) Encouraging pre-sorting of mail by the bulk mailers by providing discount in postage as an incentive, and appropriate pricing to attract more customers.

(viii) Educating the customers on installation of mailboxes on the ground floor of multi-storeyed buildings.

(ix) Preparation of triplicate registered lists in the destination mail offices for bulk mailers to reduce the load on the delivery post office and to speed up delivery of such mail.

(x) To cope up with the seasonal mail, separate centres with adequate manpower are opened to ensure expeditious handling of such mail.

(xi) Innovative use of Pin Codes.

(xii) Dedicated delivery staff are engaged in a large number of offices exclusively for Speed Post delivery.

(xiii) Introduction of a freighter aircraft for conveyance of mail in the North East Region.

Investment by BSNL

1816. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that BSNL is investing Rs. 60,000 crores in the areas of GSM, broadband, Telecom and in other services to become the top most player in this sector by 2010;

(b) if so, the details of investment and how BSNL is planning to achieve the top position in view of very stiff competition from private sector, particularly foreign companies coming into the country through acquisitions, JVs, etc.; and

(c) how BSNL is planning to pooling the above resources?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. BSNL has planned to invest over Rs. 60,000 crores in the areas of GSM Broadband and other telecom services by 2010.

(b) BSNL has following plan for investment in GSM, Broadband and other services:—

Year	Investment Plan (in Rs. Crores)
2008-09	29,000
2009-10	31,000

BSNL has not planned any acquisition up till now. However, it has forwarded a joint venture with MTNL namely M/s Millennium Telecom Limited.

(c) BSNL will mobilize the above resources from its internal accruals and borrowings from the market.

Postal stamps on eminent personalities of Orissa

†1817. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the criterion adopted by Government for issuing postal stamps depicting pictures of great personalities, freedom fighters and eminent persons;

(b) whether centre has sought proposal on it from States;

(c) the number of eminent personalities featured in postal stamps issued so far; and

(d) whether any proposal to issue postal stamps featuring any great personality from Orissa is pending with Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) As per the stamp issue policy on personalities, it should be of national or international importance. The occasion to be commemorated must be the birth centenary or 10th/25th/50th/100th death anniversary. The proposals fulfilling the norms are placed before the Philatelic Advisory Committee for consideration and recommendations.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) 569 commemorative postage stamps have been issued since 1947 on eminent personalities.

(d) 2 proposals to issue postage stamps featuring great personalities from Orissa are pending.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.